United Nations E/1999/101

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 June 1999

Original: English

Substantive session of 1999
Geneva, 5–30 July 1999
Agenda item 8
Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

Consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General

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99-19562 (E) 160799

I. Introduction

1. In 1998, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/227 (para. 68 of annex I), the Secretariat prepared a consolidated report on the outcomes of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1998 (E/1999/3). That report summarized, in a single document, conclusions and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies and the issues that might require action by and/or attention of the Economic and Social Council. The report also identified and highlighted linkages in the work of the functional commissions with an aim of assisting the Council in ensuring the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions, promoting a clear division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. The report was also intended to assist the Council in identifying and addressing major policy issues emerging from the commissions' work that required a coordinated response by the United Nations system.

2. In its resolution 1999/1, the Council endorsed a number of recommendations contained in that consolidated report. Earlier, in its resolution 1998/46, annex II, the Council had issued several recommendations to its functional commissions. In conveying these recommendations, the Council wished to ensure that the linkages of issues and their cross-cutting nature would contribute to the comprehensiveness and synergy of the work of the Council's subsidiary mechanisms as a whole, rather than leading to overlaps or even duplication. With this in view, it had stressed the need for the functional commissions to strengthen their coordination, while paying careful attention to the mandates and terms of reference of each commission.

3. The present report is submitted in response to the provision contained in paragraph 15 of Council resolution 1999/1, by which the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a further consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1999, as well as in response to the provisions contained in Council resolution 1998/46 and General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

4. Like the 1998 consolidated report, the present document is, of necessity, of a selective nature, focusing on a limited number of activities chosen with a view to facilitating the Council's coordinating and guiding role, primarily as regards the major cross-cutting themes. The report is not meant as a substitute for or a summary of the reports of the functional commissions. It should be read in conjunction with those reports, as well as with the reports of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1999/65) and on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/54/115–E/1999/59). The report of the Vice-President of the Council on the results of joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council with the bureaux of functional commissions (E/1999/CRP.___) is also of direct relevance.

5. All nine of the Council's functional commissions met in 1999. The reports of six commissions were available for the preparation of the present report: the reports of the Commission on Population and Development (thirty-second session), the Commission for Social Development (thirty-seventh session), the Commission on the Status of Women (forty-third session), the Statistical Commission (thirtieth session), the Commission on Sustainable Development (seventh session) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (fourth session). As to the remaining three commissions — the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-fifth session), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (eighth session) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (forty-second session), the present report was prepared on the basis of their various preparatory and sessional documents, including resolutions and decisions as they became available.

6. Section II of the report provides an overview of the work of the commissions in 1999, identifying the main focus of their work programmes and their relationship to priority topics and major system-wide events. Section III identifies thematic linkages and complementarities among the activities of the functional commissions on the basis of sessional documents and outcomes of the commissions' sessions. Section IV describes the existing modalities of addressing these linkages and complementarities, such as coordination and consultation mechanisms that were established between some functional commissions, and attempts to identify remaining weaknesses of the current coordination arrangements. Section V contains recommendations for further harmonization and coordination of the work programmes of the functional commissions.

7. The sessional documents (reports of the Secretary-General, notes by the Secretariat, reports of expert groups etc.) were included in the analysis, in addition to outcomes, to provide the Council with a more representative picture of the areas and subjects that were considered by functional commissions during their most recent sessions. The sessional documents also provide an indication whether secretariats of the functional commissions collaborated in preparing the sessions.

8. The Council may wish to note that following the consolidation of the economic departments of the United Nations, five of the nine functional commissions are serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This has greatly facilitated and improved the communication, coordination and collaboration within the Secretariat in terms of servicing the functional commissions, which are now better informed about each other's work.

9. To facilitate the Council's analysis, the report focuses on the activities and work programmes of the functional commissions that relate to the key cross-cutting themes emanating from the major conferences of the 1990s. Matters addressed in a functional commission that are unique to that commission and have no direct cross-cutting or linkage implications for other commission(s) are not treated in the present report.

10. The priority areas referred to in the preceding paragraph are those that were identified in the Secretary-General's report E/1995/86. They are grouped around the following broad themes:

(a) Enabling environment (including globalization and interdependence issues);

(b) Eradication of poverty and hunger;

(c) Human rights;

(d) Gender equality and advancement of women;

(e) Environment and natural resources;

(f) Social services for all;

(g) Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

II. Overview of the work of the functional commissions in 1999

11. The principal thematic focuses of the work of individual functional commissions in 1999 are presented in table 1. For the sake of providing a more dynamic and representative picture of the issues addressed by the commissions, the table also contains information on the commissions' work in 1998 and, where available, the activities planned for the coming years. In the first row of the table, selected major events, such as the thematic special

sessions of the General Assembly, are also indicated to illustrate the linkages between the work programmes of the commissions and these major United Nations events.

12. Table 1 shows that some functional commissions are in fact developing their work programmes bearing in mind the work of the Council and the other functional commissions. For instance, the central theme for the thirty-second (1999) session of the Commission on Population and Development (Population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education) contributed to the preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. Similarly, the outcomes of consideration of the substantive topics set by the work programme of the Commission on Population and Development for 2000 (Population, gender and development) and 2001 (Population, environment and development) will feed directly into, respectively, the special sessions of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and on the review of the implementation of Agenda 21. The Commission on the Status of Women, by taking up the subject of the differential impact of population ageing on women and men, provided a contribution to the International Year of Older Persons and to the overall review of the World Summit for Social Development, as did the Commission's review of the issue of women and health at its 1999 session. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, by putting a special emphasis on the subject of energy in its consideration of the theme for its 1999 session, established a linkage with the theme for the 2001 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

13. While there is reason to believe that similar thematic linkages and complementarities exist between elements of the work programmes of other commissions, such linkages are not explicit in the titles of programme items and have to be derived from sessional documents, resolutions and decisions. While explicit and obvious programme linkages are of less importance than the actual coherence and complementarity of the respective activities, they would nevertheless be beneficial for promoting harmony and complementarity by alerting other commissions explicitly to the fact that an activity might be of relevance to their own work.

14. This is, to some extent, occurring. Thus, most of the commissions have made known, in one way or the other, their intention to improve coordination with a view to achieving better complementarity of their work programmes with those of other functional commissions. Several commissions stated that their work programmes were developed with explicit attention to the work programmes and agendas of other functional commissions as well as planned major events, such as special sessions of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of major conference outcomes.

15. The Council may wish to note that, pursuant to Council recommendations contained, most recently, in its resolution 1998/46, four of the five functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences (the Commissions for Social Development, Sustainable Development, Population and Development, and on the Status of Women) have adopted and implemented multi-year thematic programmes. However, not all of these multi-year work programmes are synchronous, nor was the formulation of these multi-year work programmes carried out in a consultative or coordinated manner in all cases.

16. For the Commission on Human Rights, implementing the Council's recommendation on adopting a multi-year work programme is difficult because of the range, scope and political nature of its work, as well as unforeseen changes in emphasis and priorities of subject matters. Nevertheless, the Bureau of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission agreed to consider the matter at one of its post-sessional meetings.

Table 1

Programmes of work of the functional commissions, 1998–2002

	Multi-year work programme	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Selected major events of the year	n.a.	- Overall review of WCHR -GASS on narcotic drugs	- Overall review of ICPD: GASS - Int'l Year of Older Persons - World Conference on Science for 21st century - Overall review of the Small Island Developing States programme of action (GASS)	-Millenium Assembly - Overall review of WSSD (GASS) - Overall review of the FWCW (GASS) -UNCTAD X	- Review of WSChildren (GASS) - Review of Habitat II (GASS) - Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries -High-level intergovernmental event on financing for development	- Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa by GA - Comprehensive review of Agenda 21
Commission on Population and Development	1996-1999	Health and mortality (emphasis on health-development linkages, gender, age)	Population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education - Quinquennial review and appraisal of ICPD	Population, gender and development	Population, environment and development	
Commission on Social Development	1997-2000 Yearly: - Enabling environment - Social development goals in structural adjustment programmes - Resources - Framework for cooperation in social development	Promoting social integration and participation of all, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons	- Social services for all - Initiation of the overall review of WSSD - Review of UN plans and programmes of action: issues pertaining to ageing and International Year of Older Persons	Contribution of the Commission to the overall review and appraisal of the Summit		
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		-Organized transnational crime	- Crime prevention	-International cooperation in combatting transnational crime - Conclusions and recommendations of the Tenth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders		

Commission on the Status of Women	1997-2000	- Violence against women - Women and armed conflicts - Human rights of women - The girl child	- Women and health - Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women - Initiation of comprehensive review and appraisal of FWCW - Differential impact of population ageing on women and men (contribution to Int. Year of Older Persons)	- Comprehensive review of FWCW - Emerging issues		
Commission on Sustainable Development	1998-2002 Overriding issues poverty, consumption and production patterns	Sectoral -Strategic approaches to fresh water management -Review of outstanding chapters of the programme of action for SIDS Cross-sectoral transfer of technology, capacity-building, education, science, awareness- building Economic sector/ major group industry	Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for SIDS Sectoral oceans and seas Cross-sectoral consumption and production patterns Economic sector /major group tourism	Sectoral integrated planning and management of land resources Cross-sectoral financial resources, trade and investment, economic growth Economic sector/ major group agriculture Day of indigenous people	Sectoral atmosphere, energy Cross-sectoral information for decision-making and participation, international cooperation for an enabling environment Economic sector/ major group energy / transport	Comprehensive review of Agenda 21
Commission on Science and Technology for Development			-Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity building (with particular emphasis on biotechnology and energy)		National capacity-building in biotechnology, with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs		Follow-up to GASS20				

17. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-second session, decided to recommend to the Council the adoption of a resolution that would mandate the Commission to convene, whenever appropriate, ministerial-level segments of its sessions to focus on specific themes related to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The timing and theme for any such ministerial-level meeting would be determined by the Commission at its forthcoming sessions. Implementation of this decision may facilitate the development and adoption of a multi-year work programme.

18. For the four commissions noted in paragraph 15 above, multi-year work programmes have either been completed or are about to be completed in the near future. For instance, at the conclusion of its thirty-second (1999) session, the Commission on Population and Development had completed its first five-year topic-oriented and prioritized work programme following the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission decided that the special themes for the sessions of 2000 and 2001 would be "Population, gender and development" and "Population, environment and development", respectively. By the Commission's decision 1999/1, the Secretariat was requested to submit themes for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions for a decision by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in the context of a review of the work programme of the Commission.

19. At its seventh (1999) session, the Commission on Sustainable Development reaffirmed that poverty eradication and changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns remain the overriding issues of the Commission's work programme. The two issues are to be integrated, as appropriate, into the future themes of the work programme, in particular highlighting linkages with agriculture, financial resources, trade and investment (in 2000) and energy and transport (in 2001). In this regard, consideration is to be given to developments in other relevant international organizations and intergovernmental bodies. The two overriding themes are also to be given due regard at the comprehensive review at the Commission's tenth session, in 2002, in preparation for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

20. The multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women was approved by the Council in 1996 for the period 1997–2000. The programme systematically addressed the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Commission's session in the year 2000 will be devoted to the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action. It is expected that following that session of the Commission and the special session of the General Assembly in June 2000, a new multi-year work programme of the Commission will be adopted by the Council, based on the outcome of the special session and the results of other review processes in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits.

21. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/202 of 17 December 1996, in 1999 and 2000, the Commission for Social Development is undertaking work for the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in accordance with its programme of work as set out in Council resolution 1996/7. At its thirty-seventh (1999) session, the Commission stressed the importance of coordination between that special session and the special sessions on the review of other United Nations conference outcomes, in particular those of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

22. It may be noted that the completion of a number of multi-year work programmes of commissions presents an opportunity to introduce, on the basis of the Council's guidance, a higher degree of coordination and complementarity in their future activities. The Council may wish to invite the four functional commissions which were not covered by the

recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of annex II of its resolution 1998/46, which was addressed to the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences, to also adopt multi-year work programmes. In its future consideration of multi-year work programmes of its functional commissions, the Council may also wish to look at these programmes together rather than sequentially.

III. Consolidated documentation of the functional commissions

23. The present section identifies the relationship of the substantive content of the outcomes and other sessional documents of the functional commissions' sessions of 1999 to the priority cross-cutting themes and, where appropriate, to their sub-themes. The information is provided in table format, with each table summarizing outcomes for each theme and its sub-themes. It should be noted that the tables contain references only to documents that address the relevant issues in a substantive manner, and not to those that merely mention a cross-cutting issue in passing. Country-specific resolutions, in particular those of the Commission for Human Rights, are not included either.

24. The Statistical Commission is not included in the tables because it is not the established practice of that Commission — which addresses, *inter alia*, issues related to the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on all subjects that are addressed by other functional commissions — to adopt resolutions or decisions that would explicitly focus on non-statistical aspects of a substantive area. Nonetheless, the Commission's important contribution to the task of enhancing harmonization and coordination was its involvement in the preparation of the report on basic indicators that served as the basis for the meeting of the Council on that topic in May 1999. Furthermore, it should also be noted that at its thirtieth session, the Statistical Commission expressed its willingness to take up relevant issues that might be referred to it by other functional commissions to ensure a more integrated approach to issues of concern to the Council.

25. Tables 2–8 show that in 1999, eradication of poverty and hunger was the cross-cutting issue that attracted the attention of the largest number of commissions, closely followed by gender equality and social services for all. Various components of the enabling environment, human rights, HIV/AIDS and environment and natural resources also figured prominently on the agendas of functional commissions. Thus, most of the cross-cutting priority themes were addressed by several functional commissions. Most active in addressing the related areas were functional commissions that have specific responsibilities for follow-up to the major United Nations conferences.

26. In some cases, involvement of several functional commissions in addressing the same cross-cutting issue resulted in obvious similarities, such as, in the case of two documents with the identical title "Elimination of violence against women" prepared by the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It would seem that something as simple as a more precise indication of the particular thrust of a document (for instance, the title of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution mentioned above could have been "Elimination of violence against women: criminal justice perspective") would help to clarify linkages and complementarities between different commissions, which would contribute to better coordination.

Table 2
Enabling environment

	Population and Development	Social Development	Sustainable Development (also as prepcom for GASS 22)	Human Rights
Globalization	Population growth, structure and distribution (draft dec E/CN.9/1999/L.4) Report of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development (Ch.II)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (para 37) Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (paras 21-23)	Changing consumption and production patterns (Dec 7/2, para. 10) State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (sect IIID) (Draft Chair's compilation, A/S-22/2)	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (Res. 1999/59). The right to development (Res 1999/79)
Resources for development	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. V)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (paras 32-33) Draft resolution 37/3 on Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Annex, Part II "Further initiatives") Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (para 31)	State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (sect IIIC) (Draft Chair's compilation, A/S-22/2)	
Structural adjustment		Agreed conclusions on social services for all (para35) Draft resolution 37/3 on Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Annex, Part II "Further initiatives")		Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt (Res. 1999/22 (op. 1 to 8, 12, 15)). Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights (Res. 1999/25 (op. 2(f), 3(b), 6(b)). Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights (Dec 1999/104)

External debt				Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt Res. 1999/22 (op. 1 to 8, 11, 12, 14, 15). The right to food (Res. 1999/24 (op. 4)).

Table 3
Eradication of poverty and hunger

	Population and Development (also acting as prep com for GASS21)	Social Development	Sustainable Development	Status of Women	Human Rights	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Narcotic Drugs	Science and technology for Development
Poverty	Concise report on world population monitoring, 1999 (Ch. IV) Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. ID)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (paras 13-16) Draft resolution on Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Annex, Part II " Further initiatives")	Changing consumption and production patterns (dec.7/2) Tourism and sustainable development (dec.7/3)	Agreed conclusions on institutional mechanisms for advancement of women	Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights (Res. 1999/25 (op. 1(d), 4(d)(e)). Human rights and extreme poverty (Res. 1999/26 (op. 1 to 6))	Strategies for crime prevention (E/CN.15/1999/3, paras 17-21)	Report of the Executive Director on the follow-up to the Action Plan in International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (E/CN.7/1999/3)	
Hunger and food	Concise report on world population monitoring, 1999 (Ch. IV)		Oceans and seas (Dec. 7/1)		The right to food (Res. 1999/24 (op. 1 to 8))			Note by the Secretariat reporting on the CSTD Panel on Biotechnology for Food Production and its impact on Development (E/CN.16/1999/3)

Table 4
Human rights

	Population and Development	Social Development	Status of Women	Human rights	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
General		Agreed conclusions on social services for all (para 14)	Agreed conclusions on institutional mechanisms Draft Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention	All outcomes	Report of the SG on the use and application of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/1999/7)
Human rights of women and gender main-streaming	Special themes of the commission on Population and Development in the years 2000-2004 (Dec. E/CN 9/1999/ L.5, para 1) Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. II. III)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (para 10)	Agreed conclusions on women and health Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (res. 43/2)	The right to food (Res. 1999/24 (op. 3)); Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights (Res. 1999/25 (op. 1(d), 4(d), 6(c)); Human rights and extreme poverty (Res. 1999/26 (op. 1(e), 5(a)(b)); Integrating human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (Res. 1999/41); Elimination of violence against women (Res. 1999/42); Human rights of migrants (Res. 1999/44 (op. 2, 3(e)); Contemporary forms of slavery (Res. 1999/46 (op. 4(a)(b)); Internally displaced persons (Res. 1999/47 (op. 7)); Composition of the staff of the OHCHR (Res. 1999/70 (op. 5)); Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Res 1999/78 (op. 67)); Rights of the child (Res. 1999/80 (op. 2(c), section II, op. 11(d), 15(b), 19, 34(b), 37(c)(e)).	Elimination of violence against women (report of the SG E/1999/8)
Trafficking in human beings				Traffic in women and girls (Res. 1999/40)	Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (E/CN.15/1999/CRP.2)

Table 5
Gender equality and advancement of women

	Population and Development	Social Development	Sustainable development	Status of Women	Human rights	Science and Technology for Development	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
General	Special themes of the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2000-2004" (Dec. E/CN.9/1999/L.5, para.1) Proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. II) Report of the technical symposium on international migration and development (para 9)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (para 10) Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (para 17) Draft resolution on Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Annex. Part II " Further initiatives")	Tourism and sustainable development (Dec.7/3)	All outcomes	See column " Human rights of women and gender mainstreaming" of Table 4	Decision II " Gender Advisory Board"	Preparations for the Tenth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Ch IVD)
Violence against women	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. II)		Tourism and sustainable development (Dec 7/3)		Elimination of violence against women (Res 1999/42)		Draft resolution on the work of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Elimination of violence against women (report of the SG E/1999/8)
Trafficking			Tourism and sustainable development (Dec 7/3)		Traffic in women and girls (Res 1999/40)		Report of the SG on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (E/CN.15/1999/5)

Reproductive rights	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. III)						

Table 6
Environment and natural resources

Population and Development (also acting as prepcom for GASS 21)	Sustainable development	Human Rights
Special themes of the CPD in the years 2000-2004" (Dec. 1999/1) Concise report on world population monitoring (Ch IV) (Decision) Proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the Programme o Action of the ICPD (Ch. ID)	Changing consumption and production patterns (Dec. 7/2) Tourism and sustainable development (Dec. 7/3) Guidelines on consumer protection, expanded to include sustainable consumption (ECOSOC draft res) Oceans and seas (Dec. 7/1)	Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights (Res. 1999/23); The right to food (Res. 1999/24 (op. 3)); Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights (Res. 1999/25 (op. 1(d))

Table 7
Social services for all

	Population and Development (also acting as the prep com for GASS 21)	Social Development	Sustainable development	Status of Women	Human Rights	Narcotic Drugs	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
General	Concise report on world population monitoring, 1999 (Ch.IV) Report of the technical symposium on international migration and development (Ch. V)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all		Agreed conclusions on institutional mechanisms	Internally displaced persons (Res. 1999/47 (op. 11)); Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Res. 1999/51 (op. 11)); Forum on economic, social and cultural rights: the Social Forum (Res. 1999/53); United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (Res. 1999/64); Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Res. 1999/78 (op. 6)); Rights of the child (Res. 1999/80 (op. 6, 7(b)(c)(d), 15(d), 21(b), 24(f), 28(c), 30, 31(b); sect. X; sect. XI)).	Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Gioding Pronciples of Drug Demand Reduction (E/CN.7/1999/15)	Strategies for Crime Prevention (report of the SG E/CN.15/1999/3 paras 17-21)

Table 8
HIV/AIDS

Population and Development	Status of Women	Human rights
Proposals for key actions or the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (Ch. IIID) Concise report on world population monitoring, 1999 (paras 13-14)	Agreed conclusions on women and health Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (res 43/2)	The protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS (Res. 1999/49)

27. In other cases, linkages and complementarities can be seen even in the different approaches of individual commissions to their dealing with a cross-cutting issue. For instance, as can be seen in table 2, the Commission on Population and Development, acting also as preparatory body for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development, addressed the full breadth of the issue of enabling environment, while other commissions (the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development) addressed its sub-themes. And the Commission for Social Development produced a number of recommendations on the mobilization of resources and international cooperation for social services which may be of interest to other commissions and the Council.

28. Acknowledging the need for a better sharing of tasks in addressing cross-cutting themes of basic social services in particular, the Council, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on poverty eradication, had recommended that other functional commissions provide inputs to the Commission for Social Development in 1999 for its examination of social services for all, and advised that the Commission for Social Development assist the Council in reviewing the achievements of most of the goals and targets set by recent major conferences in the areas of basic social services. However, the Commission on Population and Development dealt extensively with the issue of social services for all in 1999, as preparatory body for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development. It covered similar ground to that covered by the Commission for Social Development in its own work on the preliminary review of the World Summit for Social Development (e.g., on progress to reach the target for universal primary education). Nevertheless, the two commissions could only marginally benefit from each other on social services for all, largely due to the close timing of the sessions of the two commissions. It is important that the outcome of the review of ICPD be adequately used by the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women in their respective reviews of the Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

29. Focusing on the issue of education more specifically, there may be further scope for improving the sharing of tasks and collaboration among commissions. For instance, examination of this issue by the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Commission for Human Rights is very much focused on the education for sustainable development and for human rights, respectively. In this context, the Commission on Human Rights requested a report from the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and proposed to organize a workshop with United Nations system organizations to identify developmental benchmarks and indicators related to the right to education. It would seem that this important endeavour would benefit importantly from the outcomes of the work of other functional commissions of the Council, in particular in the context of the five-year review of conferences.

30. It should be stressed that linkages and similarities do not necessarily represent duplication or overlap. In many instances, they reflect the interrelatedness of the issues that are dealt with by the commissions, particularly those that have responsibility for the implementation and follow-up of the major conferences and summits. As the Council emphasized in 1995, the conferences should be viewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework of and a global partnership for development. Obviously, approaching an issue related to conference follow-up in isolation from interrelated problems or disconnected from overriding goals, such as poverty eradication, human rights and gender equality, would detract significantly from the comprehensiveness of analysis, thereby making its practical and policy implications less relevant.

31. On the other hand, as linkages among issues and trends are increasingly being recognized, there has been a tendency in the various United Nations entities, including functional commissions, to encompass in their structures and work programmes different issues that touch on but are not an integral part of their core mandates, instead of drawing on the work of other entities that deal with such issues as central parts of their mandates. It is therefore the manner in which the existing substantive linkages are pursued in work programmes and analyses that determines whether a linkage becomes a complementarity contributing to achieving synergy, or rather only represents overlap or even duplication.

32. The question of similarities, repetitiveness and overlaps in the outcomes of the functional commissions was addressed in depth in the 1998 consolidated report (E/1999/3). It was pointed out that such similarities often occur, and the differences that do exist are usually more a matter of emphasis and sometimes of accuracy than of fundamental disagreement. This problem was also one of the central subjects of discussions that the Bureau of the Council had in 1999 with the bureaux of all of its functional commissions (see E/1999/CRP.____).

33. The necessity of instituting mechanisms and procedures that would promote complementarity and harmony in work programmes while preventing unproductive duplication has been long recognized by the Council and its functional commissions. Accordingly, over recent years, driven mainly by initiatives and guidance emanating from the Council, the functional commissions have developed a set of coordinating mechanisms which are primarily bilateral in nature. These mechanisms are addressed in the next section.

IV. Current modalities for coordination

34. Mutual representation and participation in meetings, as well as exchange of documents, remain by far the most prevalent vehicle of interaction among the commissions. In some cases, commissions engage in an elaborate effort to ensure, through discussions and consultations, that their proceedings and outcomes benefit from the work of other commissions. Some selected examples of such mechanisms and practices are set out below.

35. The Commission on Human Rights, in the course of preparing its resolution 1999/22 on the effects of the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt, in particular on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, organized an inter-institutional meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the heads of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, other United Nations specialized agencies and the special rapporteurs or experts of the Commission dealing with foreign debt-related issues.

36. Interaction between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has, in a major way, been enhanced following the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which has exploited the synergies between the two programmes. Through the common management of the Office, the mandates of both commissions have been furthered, as reflected by the establishment of joint field offices which have facilitated the provision of technical assistance to Governments at their request. In addition, both commissions are collaborating on issues of mutual interest, for example on action to combat money-laundering and on the joint implementation of technical cooperation matters. Also, the Chairpersons of both

commissions are invited to attend the respective inter-sessional consultation meetings. In its resolution on strategic management by the Commission of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the Commission decided that the Bureau should endeavour to hold inter-sessional meetings with the Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to improve coordination of the work of the two Commissions.

37. Considerable experience in coordination and collaboration between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights has been accumulated over recent years. The major means of such interaction are, again, bilateral contacts, and exchange of documentation. Under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Centre for International Crime Prevention has established close working relations with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the network of non-governmental organizations in the field of juvenile justice by setting up a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in this subject area.

38. The area of gender equality and advancement of women is one of the cross-cutting areas that is represented most prominently on the agendas of several functional commissions. This is a reflection of the success of the Council's calls, most recently in its agreed conclusions 1997/2, addressed to its functional commissions to mainstream a gender perspective in their work. As can be seen in tables 3 and 4, the two commissions that produce the majority of relevant documents, resolutions and decisions are the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. Recognizing that they both take a substantive interest in areas of common concern and are committed to promoting a more comprehensive and relevant treatment of the subject matter while avoiding unproductive duplication and inconsistency of recommendations, the two Commissions have developed an elaborate coordinating mechanism.

39. A good example of the functioning of this mechanism was the procedure used in 1998 to facilitate a coordinated consideration of the human rights of women between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. Following consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women of the Council's agreed conclusions 1996/1 on poverty eradication, the Commission, referring to paragraph 45 of the agreed conclusions, called on the Commission on Human Rights to consider providing an input to the Commission on the Status of Women on ensuring women's real enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to alleviation of women's poverty, economic development and economic resources. With a view to facilitating interaction between the two Commissions, the Secretariat was invited to submit a report on the subject to both Commissions. The requested report was subsequently prepared jointly by the two offices, and submitted to both Commissions (E/CN.6/1998/11–E/CN.4/1998/22).

40. In addition to working bilaterally with other commissions, the Commission on the Status of Women prepares an annual report to the General Assembly and the Council on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action (E/1998/53; E/1999/54), in which it presents, *inter alia*, the results of other functional commissions as they relate to the area of gender equality and advancement of women.

41. A similar mechanism was used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which provided, in a special annex to the Secretary-General's report on elimination of violence against women (A/54/69–E/1999/8), a list of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Council, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights that are of relevance to programme activities related to the elimination of violence against women.

42. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, pursuant to the decisions of its third session (1997) and Council resolution 1998/46, in which the Council reconstituted the Commission, paid special attention to establishing effective coordination with other functional commissions, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development. The two principal vehicles for such coordination were establishing an electronic network linking information on United Nations bodies in science and technology for development, and improving mutual representation and participation, in particular, the participation of the secretariat of the Commission in the relevant meetings of coordination bodies. At its fourth (1999) session, the Commission decided to request its secretariat to prepare an analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system for the Commission's consideration under an item of its agenda dedicated specifically to coordination.

43. The Commission on Sustainable Development has an extensive network of contacts with other organizations of the United Nations system and with other functional commissions and expert bodies. One recent example of such collaboration was a meeting on the poverty and environment initiative held in the course of its seventh (1999) session. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss linkages between sustainable development and poverty eradication. This issue was included in its work programme as an overriding theme for the 1998–2002 period but not for detailed discussion at any particular session. The outcomes of that meeting were brought to the attention of one of the informal ministerial meetings during the session. Under the initiative, a forum of ministers on poverty and environment is planned to focus attention on the issue and contribute to its consideration at future sessions of the Commission. It is not clear, however, to what extent other functional commissions, in particular the Commission for Social Development, were involved in this meeting or its planned follow-up.

44. Notwithstanding the efforts undertaken by various functional commissions to achieve greater interaction among them, in the course of the joint meetings that the Bureau of the Council had with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies, representatives of several functional commissions pointed out that their intentions to establish close collaborative interaction with other commissions, in particular through mutual representation and participation, were severely constrained by lack of resources.

45. Still, it should be stressed that while mutual participation and representation at each other's meetings and projects is an important means for exchanging information about programmes and activities and should therefore be strongly encouraged, it does not provide, by itself, an adequate foundation for making the work of the Council's subsidiary machinery more harmonious, complementary and coherent in responding to mandates, in particular those emanating from major conferences. In this respect, coordination among the functional commissions at the programme formulation and planning stage, under effective guidance from the Council, is indispensable, as is subsequent close collaboration in preparing documents and outcomes and ensuring that partners' contributions are adequately taken account of in final outcomes.

46. An example of one of the more effective mechanisms that commissions used to ensure productive collaboration between them was the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This joint work plan is prepared on an annual basis and comprises collaboration in writing of reports for the two relevant Commissions, systematic sharing of information and documentation and cooperation in capacity-building.

47. The bureaux of the functional commissions fully recognize the need to ensure that individual commissions, in addressing interrelated topics, reinforce and complement each

other's work rather than repeat and duplicate it, and that recommendations produced by the commissions and the Council are consistent.

48. However, there are differences in approaches to achieving such harmonization. A number of functional commissions did not concur with proposals, contained, *inter alia*, in the 1998 consolidated report (E/1999/3) that certain topics, such as gender equality and human rights, should be addressed exclusively by the single functional commission which has the primary responsibility for the subject matter, in particular in the context of implementation and follow-up to a major conference. It was noted that a comprehensive treatment of an issue necessitates that it be analysed from all relevant substantive perspectives to provide an adequate basis for policy recommendations.

49. Indeed, it is perfectly appropriate and necessary for a functional commission to examine a particular aspect of a multifaceted issue that belongs primarily to an area of core competence of another commission if this issue has a direct bearing on the commission's mandated activities. For instance, one must address the gender perspective when one talks about social services for all, or eradication of poverty etc. Such a process is necessary because it reflects the underlying interrelatedness of the issues. Ignoring such links or rigidly delineating distinctly separate areas of activity would indeed undermine the comprehensiveness of the analysis, and would limit practical and political relevance of the resulting policy recommendations for national and international bodies that deal with that problem.

50. It should be stressed, however, that the most efficient and effective way for a functional commission that wishes — quite legitimately — to contribute its own particular perspective on a multidimensional issue is to build its input on the basis of relevant analyses and policy recommendations provided by other functional commissions and other United Nations bodies, in particular those which have primary responsibility for addressing the underlying major issue, and in close consultation with them. Such an approach would help to ensure that such additional outcomes provide tangible value added to the treatment of an issue. A different route, when a commission seeks to substitute its own analysis and recommendations for those that are produced by another functional commission (or another organization of the United Nations system) which has a recognized core competence in and responsibility for the issue in question, may lead to unproductive duplication and, ultimately, inconsistencies in policy recommendations.

51. There were recent examples of a collaboration-oriented approach. In one of them, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1999/26 on human rights and extreme poverty, put forward relevant recommendations, including a request to the independent expert on extreme poverty to report on her activities to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, and to make her report available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same year. The Commission stressed that coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities were essential in finding collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies. The special rapporteur was expected to seek to benefit from the experience gained by other functional commissions, in particular the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, in this area.

52. Another example was a decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development, contained in a draft resolution submitted for the Council's approval, to transmit the report of the first session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development to the Commission at its eighth session as an input to the preparatory process for its ninth session that will focus on the issue of energy.

53. At the same time, there remain ample opportunities for further strengthening such beneficial collaboration between the functional commissions and expanding it to a wider range of topics and projects. In a number of cases, some outcomes would have benefitted from a more cooperative approach.

54. In a recent example of such a situation, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1999/44, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and established a wide-ranging mandate for this activity. Apparently, there were no consultations on this initiative with the Commission on Population and Development, which has the primary mandate and extensive expertise in matters pertaining to international migration. In a similar vein, several years ago the Commission on Human Rights created a Special Rapporteur on effects of foreign debt, and annually adopts its own resolution on the matter (most recently Commission resolution 1999/22). Though there were consultations with several organizations, as described in paragraph 36 above, the resolution did not, in its substantive provisions, refer to the work on the subject undertaken by other United Nations organizations. At the same time, it did request the Special Rapporteur to present, on an annual basis, an analytical report to the Commission, and requested the Secretary-General to provide the staff and resources for this task.

55. In another example, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1999/59 relating to globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, requested the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a study, based on the reports of the treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, for the consideration of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session. It would seem that this work could benefit considerably from the voluminous work on globalization and its impact produced by various United Nations bodies, including those not directly affiliated with the Commission on Human Rights.

56. Several functional commissions believed that their particular perspective on a major cross-cutting issue could have been more adequately reflected in the work of the commission that had the primary responsibility for that issue. For instance, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice believed that since the issues of crime prevention and drug abuse figured prominently in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Commission on Social Development, in preparing the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development, should take into account the relevant recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice concerning the linkages between social development and crime prevention.

57. Taking into account the commissions' stated desire to establish a more effective system for enhancing collaboration and coordination of their work programmes and building on the experience accumulated so far, the Council is in a position, in particular in the context of adopting new multi-year work programmes, to provide further impetus and guidance for this important process. The following section contains some recommendations in this regard.

V. Recommendations

58. The Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. The Council may wish to decide that for the purposes of further harmonization of the agendas, work programmes and activities of its functional commissions, coordination and collaboration at programme planning and formulation

stages are of paramount importance. With this in mind, the Council may wish to invite the four functional commissions which were not covered by its recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of annex II of its resolution 1998/46, addressed to the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences, to also adopt multi-year work programmes.

Recommendation 2. The Council may also wish to decide that in developing future multi-year work programmes of individual functional commissions, these programmes should be coordinated with those of other functional commissions in such a manner that the themes and issues that will be considered or have been already decided for consideration by these commissions can be addressed from different perspectives in the same calendar year. Commissions could also be invited to take into account planned major United Nations events, such as special sessions of the General Assembly for review of major conferences, and schedule their relevant activities in such a way that the commission that has the primary responsibility for an event would be in a position to benefit from other commissions' inputs.

Recommendation 3. The Council may wish to decide that in order to further enhance coordination and complementarity in the work of its functional commissions, the Council, in its future consideration of multi-year work programmes of the commissions, will look at these programmes together rather than sequentially.

Recommendation 4. The Council may wish to encourage its functional commissions, in formulating the titles of programme items, to provide, where appropriate, an explicit indication of linkage(s) of their planned activities with those of other commissions and/or with major planned United Nations events. The Council may also wish to encourage its functional commissions, in formulating the titles of the items of their work programmes, to more precisely indicate the particular aspect of a cross-cutting issue that the Commission intends to address.

Recommendation 5. The Council may wish to establish a practice of annual meetings of its Bureau and the Chairpersons of its functional commissions to facilitate exchanging of views and information on the strategy and direction of the commissions' work programmes, as well as conveying policy guidance from the Council in this regard.

Recommendation 6. The Council may wish to encourage its functional commissions to examine the status of their implementation of its recommendations and of coordination and collaboration with other functional commissions by including a dedicated item on the agendas of their regular sessions.

Recommendation 7. The Council may wish to encourage further strengthening and intensification of collaboration among and between the secretariats of the functional commissions. Such collaboration can be in the form of, *inter alia*, preparing joint reports on linked issues, systematic exchange of relevant information and documentation, and mutual representation and participation in relevant activities, where feasible and appropriate.

Recommendation 8. The Council may wish to invite functional commissions to give particular attention to the situation of African countries and least developed countries when examining issues on their work programmes, especially in view of the upcoming third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in 2001 and review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in 2002.

Recommendation 9. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Population and Development to take into account the work of the Commission on the Status of Women when examining the topic "Gender, population and development" in 2000, in particular the 1999 agreed conclusions on women and health. The Council may also invite the Commission on the Status of Women, in preparation for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to build upon the outcome of the discussions of the Commission on Population and Development in 2000 on that topic.

Recommendation 10. The Council may wish to encourage a further deepening of the collaboration among its commissions, in particular the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, on education. It may also encourage the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, in preparing his report for the next session of the Commission on Human Rights, to take into account the work of the General Assembly, the Council and its commissions on education.

Recommendation 11. The Council may wish to encourage the Commission on Sustainable Development to organize its consideration of financial resources, trade and investment in the year 2000 in such a manner that the relevant documents and outcomes contribute to the Tenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development in the year 2001.

Recommendation 12. The Council may wish to encourage the functional commissions in their work on various aspects of the issue of the enabling environment for development to take into account the work of the General Assembly and of the Council on these issues, in particular the outcomes of the Council's high-level segments in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Financing for Development. The Council particularly invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to take these outcomes into account when it examines the theme "Financial resources; trade and investment; economic growth" in 2000 and the theme "International cooperation for an enabling environment" in 2001.

Recommendation 13. The Council may wish to invite the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women in their 2000 review of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Fourth World Conference on Women, respectively, to draw from the outcome of the review of ICPD, in particular as it relates to social services, and to encourage a further deepening of cooperation and collaboration among its commissions on social services and education in particular.

Recommendation 14. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to take into account the agreed conclusions of the Commission for Social Development on social services for all.

Recommendation 15. The Council may wish to welcome the attention given by the Commissions on Population and Development, the Status of Women and Human Rights to the issue of HIV/AIDS, invite them to deepen their collaboration in this area, and to take into account the work of the Council on this topic at its general segment. The Council may also encourage other functional commissions to more prominently address the relevant aspects of the issue of HIV/AIDS in their work programmes.

Recommendation 16. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission for Social Development to enhance their collaboration, in particular as it relates to the yearly examination by the Commission on Sustainable Development of poverty as an overriding issue.

Recommendation 17. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue and deepen efforts to improve their collaboration, in particular on issues related to violence against women and women in the criminal justice system.

Recommendation 18. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to enhance their collaboration, in particular on the development of standards and technical cooperation activities.

Recommendation 19. The Council may wish to invite the Commission for Social Development, in its work on social integration, to take into account the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on issues of social cohesion in particular, in view of the linkages between crime and social development. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on its part, should send its relevant outcomes to the Commission for Social Development.

Recommendation 20. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to draw on the work of the Council and of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women as it relates to social and gender dimensions that affect drug abuse and trafficking. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs could also be invited to contribute to the five-year reviews of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Recommendation 21. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to take into account the relevant work and expertise of the Commission on Population and Development.

Recommendation 22. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Human Rights, in its work relating to the globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, to fully take into account the outcomes of the relevant United Nations events and studies.

Recommendation 23. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, in their work related to the effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt, to fully take into account the relevant work on this subject under way within the United Nations system.

Recommendation 24. The Council may wish to invite the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, in their work related to the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, to fully take into account the relevant work on this subject undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as by organizations of the United Nations system.